

REMARKS

Election/Restrictions

Applicants confirm the election without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 5-6.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to add in punctuation and to correct the noted deficiencies.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Baldoni et al. (US 6,360,802). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Amended claims 5-6 now recite that the axial distance of the movement of the bead core is equal to the radial expansion distance of the central support segments. Baldoni is silent as to whether the axial distance of the movement of the bead core is equal to the radial expansion distance of the central support segments. As Baldoni fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claims 5-6, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over [Caretta (US 3,598,673) or Landsness (US 4,780,170) or Olbert et al. (US 3,853,653 for claim 5 only] taken in view of at least one of Baldoni et al. (US 6,360,802) and Kneip (US 4,976,804). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Amended claims 5-6 now recite that the axial distance of the movement of the bead core is equal to the radial expansion distance of the central support segments. All of the cited references are silent as to whether the axial distance of the movement of the bead core is equal to the radial expansion distance of the central support segments. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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